



John J. Watts Papers (R0038)

Collection Number: R0038

Collection Title: John J. Watts Papers

Dates: 1874-1912

Creator: Watts, John J.

Abstract: The John J. Watts Papers are notebooks of genealogical records kept by a circuit-riding Baptist minister in the northern Ozarks. The records cover Phelps, Pulaski, Texas, and parts of Maries, and Dent counties in south-central Missouri.

Collection Size: 2 cubic feet
(38 volumes, 6 rolls of microfilm)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri – Rolla. If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *John J. Watts Papers* (R0038); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were loaned for copy to the University of Missouri by Edna Homyk on October 15, 1980 (Accession No. RA0047). The original materials were donated on April 10, 1999 by Annette Cyrus and Vicki Hudgins (Accession No. RA1660).

Other Finding Aid: A surname index has been compiled from the indexes found within the collection and can be accessed here: [surname index](#).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the John J. Watts Papers can be found in the following collections:

Beaver Creek United Baptist Church (Phelps County, Mo.) Record Book (R0219)

Processed by: Processed by John Bradbury, November 18, 1980. Revised by Kathleen Seale, March 1, 2018.

Historical Note:

John Jones Watts was born in 1839 in Warren, Maine, where he became a member of the Warren Baptist Church in 1858. He moved to Missouri sometime after the Civil War, and married Jane Woolsey of Rolla in 1872. He began preaching the gospel in 1877, and was ordained a minister at the Beaver Creek Baptist Church in 1879. Watts maintained close ties with the congregation at Beaver Creek, but traveled extensively throughout Phelps, Pulaski, and Maries Counties preaching at baptisms, marriages, funerals, and organizational meetings for local churches. He was an avid genealogist, and as a circuit-riding preacher had the opportunity to gather family information from a wide geographical area. His record keeping may have begun while he was still in Maine.

Arrangement:

The volumes are arranged in the order that they were originally microfilmed. The collection has been arranged into the following 2 series:

Genealogy
Personal

Scope and Content Note:**Genealogy**

This series contains the records written by John J. Watts on births, marriages, deaths, school and church attendance from the counties he visited during his work as a preacher. Most of the volumes are organized by families and geographical areas. Volume 1 is an index created most likely by John Watts' oldest son, Zina Emerson Watts. The name index covers volumes 2-10. Volume 11 has a separate index inside the front cover. In Volume 13 the 'Steward Record' was enclosed inside the Logan Family book and filmed together. Volumes 14-16 have page numbers that run consecutively throughout them. Volume 18 includes information on individuals in the community of Beulah in southern Phelps County. Volume 19 includes miscellaneous notes written on scraps of paper that were arranged alphabetically and then filmed. Watts recopied most of these notes into his notebooks; there are numbers on those pages indicating the volume and page number. Volume 20 indexes marriages recorded in Volume 24. Volume 21 contains the marriages performed by Watts from November 11, 1877, to April 28, 1898. There is an index at the back of Volume 25 and most of the death record entries are from Warren, Maine. Volumes 26-27 have indexes inside the front cover. The Phillips family record was enclosed inside Volume 28 and filmed together.

Personal

This series includes the personal records related to John J. Watts work as a circuit-riding preacher. These records include miles travelled, services, such as weddings, funerals, and church

services performed, and his own personal finances. Volume 36 includes entries related to funerals he attended or officiated at and the records of surnames go through the letter "M."

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v. 1-33		Genealogical Records
Box 1	v. 1	Index to Genealogical Records, Book 1-10
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	v. 3	Genealogical Records, Book 2, 1833-1912
	v. 4	Genealogical Records, Book 3, 1803-1897
	v. 5	Genealogical Records, Book 4, 1828-1911
	v. 6	Genealogical Records, Book 5, 1822-1908
	v. 7	Genealogical Records, Book 6, 1854-1912
	v. 8	Genealogical Records, Book 7, 1818-1908
	v. 9	Genealogical Records, Book 8, 1805-1906
	v. 10	Genealogical Records, Book 9, 1805-1911
	v. 11	Genealogical Records, Book 10, 1818-1911
	v. 12	Chamber and Dunham family records, 1801-1911
	v. 13	Logan and Steward families records, Pulaski County, 1816-1910
	v. 14	Hudgens Record, Book 1, 1784-1905
	v. 15	Hudgens Record, Book 2, 1861-1911
	v. 16	Hudgens Record, Book 3, 1886-1912
	v. 17	Mathis family record, 1775-1903
	v. 18	Beulah, Missouri records, 1819-1912
	v. 19	Miscellaneous genealogical notes, 1827-1912
	v. 20	Index to Marriages, Book 1
Box 2	v. 21	Record of marriages solemnized, 1874-1898
	v. 22	Record of marriages solemnized, 1899-1912
	v. 23	Index to Deaths in Missouri, Marriages, Book 1
	v. 24	Deaths in Missouri, Marriages, Book 1, 1872-1912
	v. 25	"Death of My Eastern Friends," 1872-1912
	v. 26	Pisgah-Antioch-Gasconade genealogical records, 1827-1909
	v. 27	Rock Spring and Idumea genealogical records, 1850-1907
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	v. 29	"Meeting at Democrit (sic) Ridge, November 6, 1895, Members of the Baptist Church on Pleasant Ridge, November 8, 1903"
	v. 30	"Records of the Baptist Church on Democrat Ridge," 1895-1909
	v. 31	School index, names of scholars, no date
	v. 32	School register, Grayson, Green Bush, Ray, Hopewell, Pleasant Grove, Cowan, Bayou, and Baldrige Schools, 1875-1893
	v. 33	Ellsworth genealogical family records, 1898
v. 34-38		Personal Records
	v. 34	Ministerial labors of J.J. Watts, 1877-1905
	v. 35	Ministerial labors of J.J. Watts, 1905-1912
	v. 36	Deaths, services rendered and attended by J.J. Watts, 1874-1911
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	v. 38	Ledger, Z.E. Watts, 1902-1907

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